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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT JOINS WITH BARTON COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN A CELEBRATION OF THE HOSPITAL EXPANSION

Lamar, Missouri – October 25, 2010 – Victor Vasquez, Deputy Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Anita J. (Janie) Dunning, Missouri State Director for Rural Development presented a Certificate of Congratulations to Rudy Snedigar, Chief Executive Officer, Barton County Memorial Hospital.

“I applaud the Barton County Memorial Hospital for expanding their facilities to help improve the health care for the residents of Barton County and the surrounding area,” said Vasquez.

The certificate was presented in celebration of funding for hospital and parking lot expansion. Barton County Memorial Hospital was established in 1950 by the County Commissioners and a vote of the people of Barton County, being designated as a critical access hospital in 2005. The Hospital was moved to a new site in 2006 and 2007. At the very onset of services the hospital has strived to maintain a commitment to excellence and to treat all patients with respect and compassion, offering the most advanced most effective medical treatment and technologies.

“Access to affordable, quality health care in rural communities is a challenge for many families,” said U.S. Senator Kit Bond. “These federal dollars will help address this problem by expanding a much-used clinic and provide Barton County families improved access to care.”

“I’m pleased to hear that with the help of competitive funds from the USDA, the Barton County Memorial Hospital will be able to provide improved medical resources to the citizens of Barton



Pictured left to right: Rudy Snedigar, CEO Barton County Memorial Hospital; Victor Vasquez, Deputy Under Secretary USDA Rural Development; and Janie Dunning, Missouri Rural Development State Director

County,” U.S. Senator Claire McCaskill said. “The renovation of this hospital will help ensure that the critical health care needs of southwestern Missourians are served.”

“As a native of Lafayette County, I know how difficult it can be for Missourians from rural areas to access the health care that they need. I am so pleased that, with this loan, the Barton County Memorial Hospital will be able to expand and provide more services to patients from the surrounding communities while also creating local jobs,” said U.S. Representative Ike Skelton.

This expansion of the medical clinic and parking lot will add an 8,000 square foot addition to the existing hospital for exam rooms and offices will create 27 new jobs. At present, approximately 12,500 residents of Barton County and the surrounding area will be better served in meeting their medical needs.

Snedigar said, “The funding of this \$3,000,000 loan from the USDA Rural Development is critical to our Hospital’s future development. Currently our Medical One Clinic is housing more physicians than it was designed for. With this 8,000 sq. ft. expansion, we will be able to properly house our existing physicians and will enable us to recruit additional physicians in the future. Without this loan our medical staff development would be at a standstill. It is great for Barton County Memorial Hospital and for the citizens of Barton County.”

“This is a great partnership effort when everyone works together for the common goal of meeting the medical needs of a community,” said Dunning. “This project mirrors USDA Rural Development’s mission and President Obama’s initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities. I want to personally thank everyone that has worked together to make this project a reality and I am pleased that so many residents of Barton County and the surrounding area will benefit from Rural Development funding.”

Anyone seeking more information about the Rural Development Community Facility program or any other USDA Rural Development programs may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.gov/mo> or by contacting the Springfield Area Office at 688 S. State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield, MO 65802, or calling (417) 831-5246, ext 5.

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